

In addition to raising crops and building homes, the people also began to build barns, stables and other shelters for their oxen and cattle during the coming winter.

Because the animals grazed on open range lands during the summer months it also became necessary to build fences around the various sections of land that were under cultivation so that the cattle would not ruin the precious crops.

The need for fences gave rise to a curious political office—that of fence viewer. These officials were elected and given authority to compel people, if necessary, to build and keep in repair their fences. Estimates were made and it was determined that a rod of fence for each acre of land was required to enclose the field. Each person was responsible for his own land and fences. The most common type of fence was the "worm fence" or zig-zag construction that required no nails or wire to build.

Everyone was kept extremely busy during this time in making roads into the canyons so that fence poles could be brought out and logs could be obtained for building. Hay also had to be provided from the range lands for cattle during the long winter.

As harvest time came the early frosts again plagued the people. Even though the frosts caused the wheat to shrink somewhat, it was still suitable for flour. It was during the harvest season in 1860 that the first threshing machine was brought into the county.

Two men, identified only as Smith and Bullock, brought the machine

Coffee mill
used as
wheat grinder
by Mary Giles
Creek
see Hist. of
John Creek
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to the valley. It was small and threshed very slowly, using horses as its source of power. When the grain had been through the machine it still had to be run through a fanning mill to separate the kernels from the chaff. This mill was hand operated and also very slow. As a result, some of the grain did not get harvested before winter set in.

The prospects of winter seemed less bleak that year for there were many more people in the valley and more adequate preparations had been made. To help the time pass more quickly, a dramatics group was organized. Some very good plays were produced with John Crook, James Duke, C. N. Carroll, John Gallagher and John Jordan taking the leads.

The saints also could look forward to regular Church services on Sundays in their new meeting house. A choir was organized to help with the music and John Crook, talented in many lines, served as the choir leader.



JOHN CROOK
Original Settler and Early Historian

Schools were also conducted during the winter months for the education of the people. John M. Young was the first school teacher and the classes were held in the meeting house with students sitting on rough benches or stools using make-shift desks fastened to the walls.

There were other interests in the new valley, too, for the records show that on Christmas Day, 1860, Charles C. Thomas claimed as his bride, Emmaline Sessions. They were married by Thomas Rasband in the first ceremony to be performed in the valley. That evening another couple, Harvey Meeks and a Miss Dougal were married at Center Creek by Silas Smith.